

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Vasiliy Stalin and His Interest in Soviet Sports	DATE DISTR.	19 January 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. By the end of World War II, Vasiliy Stalin began to take an active part in Soviet official life. He suddenly blossomed out with a general officer rank and a high command position in military aviation. [redacted] rumors among moderately high-ranking officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, State Security, and Defense that Vasiliy Stalin was not capable of assuming the responsibilities of these high positions. It was about this time, too, that Vasiliy had a disagreement with Marshal K.A. Meretskov, after which Meretskov was banished to an east Siberian military district.

25X1

25X1

2. The young Stalin had a personal history of having been a profligate, along with the one or two sons of Anastas I. Mikoyan. [redacted] female friends told [redacted] of an orgy staged by the young Stalin and Mikoyans toward the end of World War II. A number of young ballerinas from the Bolshoy Theater had been invited to the party. Vasiliy and the young Mikoyans became so wildly drunk that they had the ballerinas undress and dance nude on tabletops. [redacted] the revelry at Vasiliy's parties was the Soviet version of Nero's dissipation in ancient Rome.

25X1

25X1

3. After the war's end, Vasiliy's crowd could be seen driving looted German automobiles and American Harley-Davidson motorcycles through the streets of Moscow. They had much money to spend, and spent it freely. [redacted] a friend [redacted] had attended the same middle school as had Vasiliy. Later, the friend once ran into Vasiliy at the Dynamo Stadium in Moscow. Vasiliy, although slightly drunk at the time, immediately recognized his old friend and readily showed a kind solicitude toward the friend's personal circumstances. "He asked if I needed money", [redacted] "and asked me to help myself to several bills from a good-sized roll of 100-ruble notes, which I did not take." Vasiliy had many friends,

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

SECRET

25X1

-2-

and looked after them, thereby attracting to himself a number of parasites.

4. Circa 1948 Vasiliiy decided to establish his own athletic teams, and he created the Air Force (Sports) Society (VVS). In spite of the fact that the TsDSA (Soviet Army Central Club) represented both ground and air units from the Soviet Army, Vasiliiy established his own, separate air-unit teams. Vasiliiy organized expert soccer, hockey, volleyball, swimming, football, basketball, and sports car teams. Vasiliiy's act was in contravention of existing rules and practices governing the ascendancy of sports teams, which require teams to play in two conferences: a "B" Conference for the poorer 50 percent of teams of the same sport in a given area, and an "A" Conference for the balance (or better half) of the teams. The two conferences never interplay, meeting only for season-end play-offs.
5. Vasiliiy disregarded entering his newly created teams first in the local "B" Conference. He simply named them as "A" teams, especially his soccer team, and would permit them to be matched only with other "A" Conference teams. Because of the nature of sports in the USSR and the fact that the teams spend their full time in athletic practice or competition, Vasiliiy's teams were all professionals in the full sense of the word. Vasiliiy had known that sports stars are not made overnight, that a team requires several years before it can establish its ability, so he took care to select excellent players who could compete with other "A" teams.
6. There was an easy way for Vasiliiy to accomplish this-- simply by using his name. A son of the Soviet bureaucracy, Vasiliiy knew how fearful all officialdom would be of anyone so close to the pinnacle as the son of the dictator. "Using his name as currency, he bought the best players" from the TsDSA, Spartak, and Dynamo sports societies. He put all these athletes into military aviation, giving ranks to some of them. Vasiliiy accomplished this through the expedient of requesting that the chairman of the Committee of Physical Culture and Sport, Council of Ministers, transfer all the athletes asked for by name from sports clubs other than his own. No one dared protest openly, although it was no secret that Vasiliiy thus engendered considerable bad feeling among the leading sports officials of the Soviet Union. Even in the USSR, such practices were condemned by them as "unethical and criminal".
7. Once acquired by Vasiliiy, his athletes definitely profited from greater material advantages than they had known before, particularly in terms of better housing and higher pay. And the star athletes accepted these conditions quite contentedly. [redacted] in 1950 Vasiliiy organized a tennis team in the Air Force. One of the tennis players [redacted] very frankly, "It's better to play for Vasiliiy because he provides the best". Eventually all athletes in the Air Force became satisfied with their working, or playing, conditions.

25X1
25X1

25X1

SECRET

Page Denied